

can help raise awareness about this epidemic of violence, and encourage all of us to realize just how prevalent this is in our communities. The time has come for us all to work together to end this violence.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER WORK OF EMMA VALENTEEN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Phoenixville, Pennsylvania woman who has dedicated her life to making a difference in her community and lending a helping hand to neighbors in need.

Emma Valenteen moved to Phoenixville as a teenager in 1948 and has called the Borough home ever since. Her tremendous work ethic allowed her to juggle the demands of raising five children while working for 44 years at Container Corp. of America. Somehow, Emma still found plenty of energy to work even harder in her community. After losing her youngest daughter, Marianne, to leukemia, Emma joined the Valley Forge Chapter of the support group Compassionate Friends. By 1991, she started a Phoenixville chapter and has spent 18 years as chairwoman of the group.

For more than a quarter century, Emma has been the Recording Secretary of the Social Concerns Committee of the Phoenixville Interfaith Council. Her commitment to the community and dedicated volunteerism earned Emma numerous awards through the years. However, it has been the organizations and the entire community who have been the true winners thanks to Emma's extraordinary efforts.

Friends, family and community members will express their gratitude for Emma's service and recognize all of her accomplishments during a dinner on September 30, 2009 at Robert Ryan's Columbia Station.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Emma Valenteen for her selfless service and tireless work to make Phoenixville a great place to live, work and raise a family.

H.R. 3548, THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. And, I want to commend my colleague Representative McDERMOTT for his leadership on this issue.

The financial and economic collapse last year put this country in the worst economic recession since the 1930s.

And while we have seen signs that the economy is stabilizing, millions of Americans and their families continue to struggle.

Struggle to pay their monthly rent or mortgage.

Struggle to pay for their prescriptions.

Struggle to pay for food and other of life's basic necessities. . . .

H.R. 3548 will assist workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and who continue to look for work in states with high unemployment.

Ohio is one of those states . . . the current jobless rate in Ohio is 10.8 percent.

It is estimated that 11,642 Ohioans will run out of unemployment compensation by the end of the month and 64,545 will exhaust their benefits by the end of the year. H.R. 3548 will extend benefits for these workers whose safety net is running out.

There are 5 million Americans who have been searching for work for longer than 6 months.

And unfortunately, when it comes to getting back to work, prospects are dim. There are 6 unemployed workers for every available job in the U.S.

These figures and the severity of the economic recession make it critical for Congress to extend unemployment benefits.

We must help our workers, families, neighbors and communities weather these tough economic times.

We must continue to provide the financial assistance needed to help cushion the impact of the recession.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3548.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. PEDRO DEVORA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Pedro Devora, whose barbershop business recently celebrated 50 years of operations in downtown Floresville, Texas.

Pedro Devora was born on May 22, 1926 and raised in Tordio, Texas where he attended school until the third grade. Mr. Devora worked in the area until he joined the U.S. Navy on October 1, 1944 to serve his country. While in the Navy, he served during the invasion of Okinawa that began on April 1, 1945. During that mission, his ship was hit in battle. Mr. Devora would survive a night in the water until he was rescued the following morning. During his time in the Navy, his hard work ethic gained him several promotions from his superiors. In fact, in less than a week he went from working in the laundry section to becoming an assistant supervisor, and later supervisor. In 1946, Mr. Devora returned to the United States and received an honorable discharge.

Following his time in the Navy, he returned home to Tordio and within a year he decided to attend Barber School. While in attendance, Mr. Devora married his sweetheart, Maria Flores on November 3, 1947. In 1948, Mr. Devora received his Barber's License and began work in Floresville, Texas.

Since returning from the Navy, he has been active in several political races, such as those of Lyndon Baines Johnson, Harry Truman, Gus Garcia, Carlos Cadena, Judge Mike Machado, Congressman Chick Kazen, Albert Pena, Judge Esquivel, Pete Tijerina, and almost every Democratic President since 1946.

On August 12th, 1959, he opened a barber-shop with his longtime friend Raymond Lucio. Mr. Devora and Mr. Lucio spent over 49 years as coworkers until Mr. Lucio's passing. The business remains in operation to this day and remains a pillar of the Floresville community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the many accomplishments and service of Mr. Pedro Devora, and I thank you for this time.

2009 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EM- PLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my local police department, the Santa Ana Police Department, on receiving the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Each year, the United States gives this distinguished award to large businesses, small businesses, and public service employers who provide outstanding support to employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Last week, Chief Paul Walters of the Santa Ana Police Department had the pleasure of being congratulated by President Obama and Secretary Gates at the White House after a reception and ceremony hosted by Dr. Jill Biden.

The Orange County community is incredibly proud of the Santa Ana Police Department. They have worked hard to create a positive work environment for our National Guard and Reserve members, and we are so grateful that they protect us each and every day.

I want to personally thank the Chief and the police department for their efforts and congratulate them once again for receiving the 2009 Freedom Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed four votes under suspension of the Rules on September 9, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted in support of the following four bills: H. Res. 447, H.R. 2097, H.R. 2498, and H. Res. 722.

NATIONAL JOB CORPS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 163, to support the designation of September 23, 2009, as National Job Corps Day.

Since 1964, Job Corps has trained young adults for meaningful careers, improving their